

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MINNIE CALLENDER

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, recently, I had the pleasure of meeting Minnie Callender. Minnie was raised in South Carolina with her eleven siblings. She later moved to New York to pursue her college education and earned two Master's degrees in education and school administration. While also raising four children, she worked as an excellent English teacher and school principal. Minnie now volunteers in Middle Township as the Chair of the Township's Senior Citizen Advisory Council, where she spearheaded a plan for voter education seminars to assist seniors and other residents. She also stays active in the local chapter of the AARP and her congregation, Christ Gospel Church, where she leads a weekly bible study. God Bless Minnie and God Bless America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present during Roll Call vote number 341. On Roll Call vote number 341, I would have voted YES.

RECOGNIZING THE AFGHAN COALITION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Afghan Coalition for its outstanding service to the Afghan-American population in the San Francisco Bay Area, particularly during the humanitarian and immigration crisis related to the end of the 20-year U.S. military mission in Afghanistan.

The City of Fremont, partially within the 15th Congressional District, is the heart of the Afghan diaspora in America, the center of the largest Afghan American community in the United States. Many local families have struggled to help their loved ones escape Afghanistan this year as the Taliban resurged.

Founded in 1996, the Afghan Coalition long has been the voice for various under-served groups in the Afghan American community, providing a range of programs including, youth counseling and education, food banking, mental health advocacy, and direct assistance to immigrants and refugees who settle here after fleeing violence and instability.

In recent months, the coalition has hosted a series of town hall events with local elected officials, immigration and mental health experts, and other community leaders in order to keep the Afghan American community informed, comforted, and tied in with community resources during these difficult times.

Through the tireless service of Executive Director Rona Popal, the coalition's board of directors, and its staff and volunteers, the Afghan Coalition has supported and championed countless families in their time of need while also providing important public information to keep the Afghan people's plight front and center in our civic discourse. Their advocacy comes from a place of strength and love, and inspires us all to do more to help those who helped our troops during America's longest war.

I thank the Afghan Coalition for its continued work to improve lives in the Bay Area and around the world.

ANDREW MARTUCCI—EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this month, I had the pleasure of presenting Andrew Martucci with his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. After Andrew noticed that the sign in front of his local church was eroding and in danger of damage, he decided to build a retaining wall for the soil as his Eagle Scout Project. In addition to the wall, Andrew constructed a garden around the perimeter of the sign to help retain the soil. Andrew's Eagle Scout Project makes both his church and his community proud. This young man should be proud of his accomplishments and it was my honor to have had the opportunity to recognize him for his service to the South Jersey community. God Bless Andrew and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING SPOJMIE NASIRI

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Afghan-American immigration attorney Spojmie Nasiri for her tireless and impactful work in assisting Afghans before and during the crisis of the Taliban's resurgence.

Spojmie was born in Paktia, Afghanistan, in 1975 and emigrated with her family first to Germany in 1981 and then to the United States in 1982, refugees from the Soviet-Afghan war. After growing up in Concord, California, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of

California, Davis in 1998 and her Juris Doctorate from Golden Gate University, School of Law in 2003.

Today, she is a member of the California State Bar admitted to practice before the California Supreme Court and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

She chose to practice immigration law because she is, as she puts it, "acutely aware of the pain endured by immigrants separated from their families." She has used her personal experience to more fully understand the challenges her clients face, and to help them navigate the complex immigration process. She has done substantial pro bono work, and in 2019 she founded the nonprofit We Have Hope Foundation to support Pashto speaking youth in Afghanistan and around the world by creating accessibility to world-class learning materials in Pashto.

Her life's work took on new dimensions in recent months as she has worked diligently from her Pleasanton, California office to help bring clients out of Afghanistan. Working by phone and email, she strove to coordinate efforts with the State Department to help people navigate the terrifying circumstances in Kabul to reach the airport and escape the country.

At the same time, Spojmie has worked with groups including the Afghan Coalition and the Jewish Community Relations Council to inform the public about Afghan refugees' legal and practical needs for resettlement, and how best to help in the months and years to come.

"As an immigrant, you have a passion, a drive that's unlike any other," Spojmie once wrote. "And you want to give back."

I thank Spojmie for continuing to give back so much in a time of such great need. She is a credit to her heritage, family, profession, and the 15th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harmony House in Springfield, MO, for their work in fighting domestic violence.

Harmony House has partnered with photographer Randy Bacon for the project, Standing Together: Portraits and Stories of Domestic Abuse. The project features life size portraits, videos, and stories of survivors and those who work to break the cycle of domestic violence. The goal of the project is to highlight that abuse is not just a personal issue, but one that affects the whole community. This project will also show the human side of these victims, so that people can understand that they are not just statistics. The exhibition was on display through October 29 at the Pool Art Center Gallery located in Springfield, Missouri on the campus of Drury University. It will now be on display through November at the Randy

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